

## Today's News - Monday, February 13, 2012

- ArcSpace brings us Meier x 2 with a glimmering villa in Italy, and an elegant tower in Mexico City.
- Sad losses x 2: Sklarek, who broke through more than one glass ceiling as the first African American woman to become a licensed architect in the U.S.; and third-generation Weston, a California mid-century modern master in his won right.
- A passing of a different sort: Glancey pens his last column for the Guardian, reflecting on his 15 years as critic, and "the buildings that have stopped me in my tracks because of their beauty or audacity, and sometimes both."
- Badger takes on the dilemma of density, which is "supposed to be the answer to a whole range of urban challenges" - but there's that nagging public distaste for building tall; one answer: "put density wherever you don't like what you currently have," and "of course ensure that it's not awful."
- Alpert reports on Washington, DC's 4-year effort to re-write its zoning code by "looking at development patterns from 100 years ago while adding some 21st century touches" (tall buildings included).
- Gang and Lindsay offer a fix for the housing crisis that goes beyond throwing money at current problems: "at the core of the crisis but wholly ignored: design and urban planning" (zoning changes included).
- A conference in Bhutan tackles some thorny issues facing South Asian countries, such as urbanization: "it is only in the last few years that architects and urban planners are becoming mindful of their own moral failure to serve the larger and deeper interest of society."
- Nigerian architects and planners call for a clamp-down on "the incursion of foreign architects practicing illegally" and a need to let clients know that there is local talent that can do the work just as well.
- Rochon looks at library systems from all over that, in the face of budget cuts, are "focusing hard on the economic case" that makes them "crucial to a vibrant civic life."
- Campbell cheers BSA's new HQ on the Boston waterfront, with hopes it "gets more of us talking with one another about the city...And the Green Stair? I see it as a signal flag, a marker of one place where that conversation will occur."
- Neyfakh offers the fascinating tale of how the much-loved and/or much-reviled Boston City Hall came about; its original architects "remain defiantly in love with it."
- A (hopefully) happy ending to the Manny Hanny saga on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue: the Bertoia sculptures will return! (of course, "several other contentious elements remain").
- The Port of Miami gives two thumbs-ups to Arquitectonica's design for new tunnel entries that is "evocative and distinctly modern," yet "reminiscent of an Egyptian temple front"; the design has "transformed an elephant into something beautiful."
- Iovine profiles five architecture firms that are "attracting global attention to Brazil's design boom."
- The Top 10 must-see buildings of Israel is "an eclectic mix of the ancient to the avant-garde."
- Rose reviews the week in architecture that includes Moby parsing "strange LA architecture," and the architecture board game to "test your knowledge and alienate your non-architectural friends even further."
- Say it ain't so! Graves and Target to go their own ways (but plans afoot to keep us design snobs trekking to "Tarzhay").

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[Richard Meier & Partners x 2: Villa Gardone, Gardone Riviera, Italy + Mitikah Office Tower, Mexico City](#)

[Obituary: Norma Merrick Sklarek, 85: The first African American woman to become a licensed architect...worked on Terminal 1 at LAX and the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo...co-founded Siegel-Sklarek-Diamond, one of the largest all-women architectural firms in the country, in 1985. -- SOM; Gruen Associates; Welton Becket; Jerde Partnership- Los Angeles Times](#)

[Obituary: Eugene Weston III, 87; modernist architect: ...built a string of midcentury homes in L.A. before spending three decades with a San Diego firm known for such large-scale commissions as the Old Globe Theatre and San Diego Wild Animal Park. -- Liebhart & Weston- Los Angeles Times](#)

[Jonathan Glancey's passport to the planet: He has 'Give this man every assistance' written in his travel documents -- and as the Guardian's architecture critic for 15 years he has travelled the world. In his final article for the paper, he reflects on the buildings that have stopped him in his tracks...because of their beauty or audacity, and sometimes both. -- Michel Virlogeux; Norman Foster; Herzog & de Meuron; Ai Weiwei; Alastair Lansley; Charles Barclay; Diller + Scofidio; Oscar Niemeyer \[slide show\]- Guardian \(UK\)](#)

[Should Building Taller Be Much, Much Easier? Effective height restrictions may be hurting more of our cities than we realize: Density is supposed to be the answer to a whole range of urban challenges...But how do you grow denser if you can't grow up? Put density wherever you don't like what you currently have...of course ensure that it's not awful. By Emily Badger -- David Dixon/Goody Clancy; Roger K. Lewis \[images, links\]- The Atlantic Cities](#)

[D.C. Looks to the Past to Fix Its Zoning Code: After a four-year rewrite process, the District of Columbia's proposed new zoning harkens back to before the 1950s...looking at development patterns from 100 years ago while adding some 21st century touches. By David Alpert \[images\]- The Atlantic Cities](#)

[Op-Ed: Designing a Fix for Housing: A permanent solution must go further than money to address issues that have been at the core of the crisis but have been wholly ignored: design and urban planning...Only by loosening zoning to allow new combinations of home and work will we be able to bring innovative design to bear on the single-family house. By Jeanne Gang and Greg Lindsay- New York Times](#)

[Losing architectural ethos to Urbanisation? South Asia "has the dubious distinction of being home to the largest number of the poorest and the deprived...it is only in the last few years that architects and urban planners are becoming mindful of...their own moral failure to serve the larger and deeper interest of society." -- South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation of Architects \(SAARCH\); Shahab Ghani Khan/Institute of Architects, Pakistan \(IAP\); Jayantha Perera; Chhado Drukpa/Bhutan Institute of architects \(BIA\)- Kuensel \(Bhutan\)](#)

[Much ado about foreign consultants: "...the problem we are having now is the incursion of foreign architects practicing illegally...trying to make our clients realise that the Nigerian architect can produce what the foreign person can do and if we have foreigners coming to work in Nigeria, it should be in collaboration with Nigerian architects." -- Roti Delano/Femi Majekodunmi & Associates; Association of Consulting Architects of Nigeria; Nigerian Institute of Architects \(NIA\)- The Nation \(Nigeria\)](#)

[The business case for beautiful libraries: ...under constant fire from cities desperate to save money, libraries are figuring out how to get the message across that they are crucial to a vibrant civic life...focusing hard on the economic case...also libraries that have fought back with exhilarating, high-design environments. By Lisa Rochon -- Will Alsop; Rem Koolhaas/OMA; Patkau Architects; Levitt Goodman Architects/Phillip Carter Architects \[slide show\]- Globe and Mail \(Canada\)](#)

On Fort Point Channel, an architects' space with an open door: ...the new headquarters of the Boston Society of Architects...There's the sense of a genuinely public place...If the new BSA Space gets more of us talking with one another about the city, it will be a winner. And the Green Stair? I see it as a signal flag, a marker of one place where that conversation will occur. By Robert Campbell -- Höweler + Yoon/Eric Höweler/Meejin Yoon; pinkcomma- Boston Globe

How Boston City Hall was born: Whatever else you might think about it, Boston City Hall is an improbable building...to walk by this strange, asymmetrical structure...is to wonder how on earth it landed there...as the 50th anniversary of their design...approaches, Kallmann and McKinnell remain defiantly in love with it. By Leon Neyfakh -- Kallmann McKinnell & Knowles - Boston Globe

Glass Half Full: Vornado and preservationists reach settlement on Manny Hanny; Bertoia sculptures return...Chase...will keep the sculptures in place as permanent loans as long as the interior remains landmarked...several other contentious elements remain...controversies exemplified problems inherent to adaptive reuse. -- Gordon Bunshaft/Skidmore, Owings & Merrill/SOM (1954); Ada Louise Huxtable; Kenneth Frampton [images]- The Architect's Newspaper

Grand entryways approved for new Port of Miami tunnel: Imposing, classically inspired new designs...evocative and distinctly modern...reminiscent of an Egyptian temple front...simple yet elegant...also include extensive landscaping...Fort-Brescia "has transformed an elephant into something beautiful"... -- Arquitectonica [images]- Miami Herald

The New Icons of Design: Five architecture firms shaping the look of the country of the future...show off the energy and refinement that is attracting global attention to Brazil's design boom. By Julie V. Iovine -- Arthur Casas; Francisco Fanucci/Marcelo Carvalho Ferraz/Brasil Arquitetura; Bernardes + Jacobsen; Isay Weinfeld; Marcio Kogan/StudioMK27 [images]- Wall Street Journal

Top 10 must-see buildings of Israel: From Byzantine to Bauhaus...an eclectic mix of the ancient to the avant-garde. -- Arthur Louis Harmon (1935); Yacov Rechter (1973); Preston Scott Cohen (2011); Erich Mendelsohn (1936); Ron Arad (2010); Leopold Krakauer (1935); Haim Dotan/Avi Arbel; Ram Karmi/Ada Karmi-Melamede (1992); Moshe Safdie [images]- ISRAEL21c

Constructive criticism: the week in architecture: Moby sings the praises of strange LA architecture, Ai Weiwei prepares to make a splash at the Serpentine pavilion, and there's a towering new board game in town...Test your knowledge...and alienate your non-architectural friends even further. By Steve Rose -- Herzog & de Meuron; Serie; Marks Barfield; NEXT Architects [images, links]- Guardian (UK)

Graves gave Target an edge: The soon-to-end 13-year alliance with designer Michael Graves helped to cement the retailer's vaunted "Tarzhay" persona...his impact will continue to reverberate at the Minneapolis-based retailer for years to come...made it OK for the highbrow fashion and design world to embrace the mass market. - Minneapolis Star Tribune

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